

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A method of operating a microcavity discharge device, said method comprising the steps of:

supplying an electrical current to discharge gas located within said device, said electrical current including a constant direct current and a pulsed current; and

emitting radiation through a closed end of said microcavity discharge device.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said radiation has a wavelength that is less than 100 nanometers.

28. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein said emitting step includes emitting radiation through a metal.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of supplying said constant direct current at a voltage of approximately 220 Volts.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of supplying said constant direct current in the range of approximately 1 to 3 milliamps.

31. (Original) The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of supplying said pulsed current in the range of approximately 60 to 100 amps.

32. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of supplying said pulsed current with a duration of approximately 1×10^{-6} seconds or less.

33. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of supplying said pulse current at a rate up to approximately 1000 pulses per second.

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34. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising the steps of spacing said pulse current at approximately 0.001 seconds or greater.

35-38. (Canceled)